

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for treating a lipophilic fluid contained in an emulsion, said process comprising the steps of:
  - a. exposing a fabric to a lipophilic fluid and water, thereby an emulsion comprising said lipophilic fluid and said water is formed;
  - b. collecting said emulsion;
  - c. pre-treating said emulsion;
  - d. recovering said lipophilic fluid from said emulsion; and
  - e. purifying said lipophilic fluid.
2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises spinning said fabrics, said lipophilic fluid, and said water.
3. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises wringing said fabrics.
4. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises evaporating at least a portion of said lipophilic fluid and at least a portion of said water and condensing at least a portion of said lipophilic fluid and at least a portion of said water.
5. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said pre-treating step is selected from the group comprising sedimentation, centrifugation, cyclonic action exposure, decantation, filtration, temperature modification, chemical addition, and combinations thereof.
6. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said pre-treating step comprises passing said emulsion through a filter such that particles and particle aggregates about 1 micron or larger are removed.
7. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said recovering step is selected from the group comprising mechanical coalescence, electric coalescence, chemical addition,

membrane filtration, temperature modification, air stripping, microbial addition, absorbent material exposure, centrifugation, adsorption, absorption, crystallization, precipitation, temperature modification, diafiltration, electrolysis, extraction, pH modification, ionic strength modification, and combinations thereof.

8. A process according to Claim 7 wherein said adsorption comprises exposing said emulsion to activated carbon.
9. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said purifying step is selected from the group comprising membrane filtration, distillation, extraction, stripping, enzyme addition, ion exchange, desiccant drying, adsorption, and combinations thereof.
10. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said emulsion comprises up to about 10% emulsifier by weight of the emulsion.
11. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said emulsion further comprises an emulsifier.
12. A process according to Claim 11 wherein said emulsifier comprises a surfactant.
13. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said emulsion comprises at least about 50% by weight of the emulsion of lipophilic fluid.
14. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises a linear siloxane, a cyclic siloxane, or mixtures thereof.
15. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises a lipophilic fluid selected from the group consisting of octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, decamethylcyclopentasiloxane, dodecamethylcyclohexasiloxane, and mixtures thereof.
16. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises decamethylcyclopentasiloxane.

17. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises decamethylcyclopentasiloxane and is substantially free of octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane.
18. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said emulsion also comprises adjunct ingredients selected from the group consisting of enzymes, bleaches, surfactants, fabric softeners, perfumes, antibacterial agents, antistatic agents, brighteners, dye fixatives, dye abrasion inhibitors, anti-crocking agents, wrinkle reduction agents, wrinkle resistance agents, soil release polymers, sunscreen agents, anti-fade agents, builders, sudsing agents, composition malodor control agents, composition coloring agents, pH buffers, waterproofing agents, soil repellency agents, and mixtures thereof.
19. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said process further comprises the steps of:
  - a. collecting vapors of said lipophilic fluid;
  - b. condensing said lipophilic fluid vapors to form condensed lipophilic fluid vapors; and
  - c. combining said condensed lipophilic fluid vapors and said emulsion.
20. A process according to Claim 19 wherein said emulsion comprises a ratio of water/combined lipophilic fluid and condensed lipophilic fluid vapor/emulsifier of from about 1/98.9/0.1 to about 40/55/5 by weight of said emulsion.